

“A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City”
Fact Sheet: HMONG Refugees in Thailand

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)	No statistics available
Refugees	6,000 living in one camp but being forcibly returned to Laos
Why Hmong are fleeing Laos	Persecution for collaboration with U.S. government during Vietnam War
Dates of conflict	1960-1975
Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) began working there in	2005
MSF staff on the ground	25
MSF activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water-and-sanitation programs • Nutritional programs • Primary health care • Mental health care • Advocacy on behalf of refugees as only international witness to their plight
MSF concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced repatriation of hundreds of refugees and planned repatriation of thousands more to Laos by the Thai government in violation of the UN Convention on Refugees

- The Hmong people are an ethnic minority originating from southern China who are spread among Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar (Burma).
- Some of the Hmong population in Laos assisted U.S. armed forces in fighting against the Vietcong and Communist Pathet Lao forces during the U.S.-Vietnam war. After the Communist takeover of Laos, many Hmong were persecuted by Laotian authority. Many fled to neighboring countries and others are still hiding in the Laotian jungle in squalid conditions.
- Since 2005, 8,000 Hmong have sought refuge in the village of Huay Nam Khao in Thailand's Petchabun province, near the Lao-Thai border. Many of them claim to have fled targeted attacks on their villages and political or religious persecution in Laos.
- Today, MSF is the only international humanitarian organization with access to these refugees, who are not allowed to leave the camp.
- The Thai government now deports Hmong refugees upon entry into Thailand and in May 2007 announced its intention to forcibly repatriate the 8,000 Hmong in Huay Nam Khao back to Laos as soon as possible. On June 22, 2008, the repatriation began with the forced return of 800 ethnic Lao Hmong refugees.
- MSF is advocating for the Thai government to stop the expulsions and to allow independent monitors to assess the refugees' claims for protection.

For more information visit www.doctorswithoutborders.org/hmongrefugees/news

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